## BURR FORMAN MCNAIR

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October 21, 2020

Ms. Jocelyn Boyd Chief Clerk and Administrator South Carolina Public Service Commission Synergy Business Park, The Saluda Building 101 Executive Center Drive Columbia SC 29210

Re: Application of Palmetto Telephone Communications, LLC to Expand Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (Lifeline Only) to Include St. George Exchange
Docket No. 2020-208-C

Dear Ms. Boyd:

Please find enclosed for filing on behalf of Palmetto Telephone Communications, LLC ("PTC"), a Motion for Expedited Review and Approval of Application.

Thank you for your assistance.

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Sincerely,

Burr & Forman LLP

Margaret M. Fox

MMF:khh

Enclosure: as stated

cc: C. Lessie Hammonds, Esq.

## BEFORE THE

## PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF

## SOUTH CAROLINA

DOCKET NO. 2020-208-C

Application of Palmetto Telephone	)
Communications, LLC to Expand Designation	)
as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier	)
(Lifeline Only) to Include St. George Exchange	)
	)

# MOTION FOR EXPEDITED REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF APPLICATION

Palmetto Telephone Communications, LLC ("PTC" or "Applicant") hereby respectfully moves for expedited review of its Application, filed pursuant to Section 214(e)(2)<sup>1</sup> of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended (the "Act"), to expand its designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier ("ETC") to include the St. George exchange (the "Designated Service Area"). Palmetto is seeking only low income (Lifeline) support, and is not requesting high cost support. Palmetto previously was designated as an ETC within the Walterboro and Yemassee exchanges for these purposes. *See* Order No. 2012-739.

PTC requests that this matter be decided by the Commission at the Commission's earliest opportunity in a regularly-scheduled agenda session, that a formal evidentiary hearing be waived, and that the hearing currently scheduled for November 24, 2020, be canceled. In support of this Motion, PTC would respectfully show unto this honorable Commission the following:

<sup>47</sup> U.S.C. § 214(e)(2).

- 1. PTC filed its Application in this matter on August 26, 2020.
- 2. PTC published a Notice of Filing of the request in newspapers of general circulation, as directed by the Commission. The deadline to intervene in this matter was October 8, 2020.
- 3. The South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff ("ORS") is a statutory party to this action. See S.C. Code Ann. § 58-4-10(B). PTC's counsel has consulted with counsel for ORS, and ORS does not object to PTC's request for expedited review of this matter.
- 4. No other comments or petitions to intervene were received in response to the notice. Thus, all interested persons have been afforded an opportunity for a hearing, as may be required by Section 1-23-320(a) of the South Carolina Administrative Procedures Act and constitutional due process. Proceeding without a formal hearing in this matter would serve the public interest in administrative efficiency.
- 5. In support of its Application, PTC filed the verified testimony of Jason J. Dandridge. In his verified testimony, Mr. Dandridge described in detail the relief PTC is seeking. Mr. Dandridge testified that PTC meets all of the statutory and regulatory requirements for designation as an ETC in the Designated Service Area, and that designation of Palmetto as an ETC in the Designated Service Area will serve the public interest. Granting Palmetto's Application will allow Palmetto to receive federal universal service support to enable the Company to provide Lifeline service discounts to qualifying low-income customers in the St. George exchange.

WHEREFORE, for the reasons stated above, Palmetto Telephone Communications, LLC respectfully requests that the Commission:

- (1) grant PTC's request for expedited review of its Application and waiver of a hearing in this matter;
- (2) issue an order granting PTC's Application to expand its designation as an ETC to include the St. George exchange;
- (3) cancel the hearing on this matter currently scheduled for November 24, 2020; and
  - (4) grant such other and further relief as is just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

By:

M. John Bowen, Jr.

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ATTORNEYS FOR PALMETTO TELEPHONE COMMUNICATIONS, LLC

Columbia, South Carolina

October 21, 2020